

APPROVED: Meeting No. 32-86

ATTEST: *Carol A. Hachadoorian*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NO. 19-86

May 7, 1986

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in budget work session in the Board and Commission Room, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, May 7, 1986, at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilman Steve Abrams

Councilman James F. Coyle

Councilman Douglas Duncan

Councilman Peter Hartogensis

ABSENT

Mayor Steven Van Grack

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Richard V. Robinson and Secretary to the City Clerk Patricia Rager.

On motion of Councilman Duncan, duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote of all present, Councilman Coyle was appointed Mayor Pro Tem.

Re: Budget Work Session
with Public Works

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Engineering & Transportation Planning: Councilman Hartogensis asked what is referred to under Mass Transit. Mr. Goodin explained that this is the time the Planning Department puts into the Ride-On and also a small part of the Traffic Engineer's time.

Street Maintenance: Councilman Abrams asked the cost per mile for smooth-sealing. Mr. Goodin said it costs about \$35,000 per mile. The City Manager said that 12.08 miles is projected in this budget. The Council asked if more miles could be added without jeopardizing the budget. Mr. Goodin explained that streets that must be done are scheduled and then some streets are added in case of a difference in fee. Councilman Abrams said he would like to see added to the Wish List, 87D which would mean adding an additional 14 miles per year into the 12 year cycle. Councilman Coyle suggested that there be some publicity about this program. He feels that not enough people are familiar with this program. Mr. Butchart from the Public Works Department said that there is a

smoothseal article published three times a year in the newsletter. Mr. Robinson suggested perhaps some public relations work could be done to better publicize this project. Councilman Abrams said that Veirs Mill Road is not within the City's jurisdiction and asked when the side streets off of Veirs Mill Road would be done. Mr. Morningstar said the State plans to resurface Veirs Mill Road this year, all that falls inside and outside of the City. Councilman Abrams suggested the City take advantage of this and coordinate the resurfacing of the side streets and service drives off of Veirs Mill Road at the same time. If any of the streets are nearing cycle, he suggested taking advantage and sealing them at this time, too.

Street Design & Construction: Councilman Abrams inquired as to the status of the light at Gude Drive and Piccard Drive. The Traffic Engineer said the City is currently looking into this. It probably will cost \$50,000 to install the light. This item would fall in the CIP.

Traffic Operations: Mr. Goodin said staff has on the wish list for the purchase of a stripping machine. Councilman Hartogensis asked why \$30,000 is requested when only \$13,000 is needed. Mr. Goodin said staff has no specific vehicle in mind. They would like to explore the market. He noted that the machine will need to perform several functions. The \$30,000 will cover what is needed. It may be possible to get what is wanted cheaper and if so that is what staff will recommend. Mr. Robinson said he is not sold on the \$30,000 figure either and said this still needs some further discussion at staff level.

Councilman Coyle asked about the traffic signal at Hurley Avenue and Route 28. He explained that traffic backs up on Rt. 28 and does not allow for traffic to exit from Hurley Avenue. The Traffic Engineer said a few weeks ago a re-timing of the lights was done. There was a problem and it has been solved. Councilman Coyle said the problem is still happening this week. The City Manager said usually an accident or blockage at the 270 exit will cause the intersection to become grid locked. Councilman Coyle inquired into the possible use of police officers for traffic control. Councilman Duncan said this is generally done only when the lights are out.

Snow & Ice Control: Councilman Abrams asked the snow fall for 1986. Mr. Douglass said there was a normal snow fall of 30 inches this past winter. Councilman Abrams noted that there was no carry forward of salt. Mr. Douglass said the stockpiles are lower this year than last because there were lots of little storms. Councilman Abrams asked if the City should plan for a cushion since supplies are down from last year and there was a normal snow fall this year. Mr. Goodin explained that this is not necessary. Councilman Hartogensis asked if the City plows any of the State roads and added it would seem more efficient for the City to do so. Councilman Abrams said this would cut into the service provided for the City's communities.

Pedestrian Ways: Mr. Robinson said the Mayor had asked if Rockville Pike is to have sidewalks. Mr. Goodin said there are no plans for sidewalks. Councilman Duncan added that it is tough to walk from shopping center to shopping center and from Edmonston to Congressional Plaza.

Councilman Abrams inquired into the maintenance of sidewalks in neighborhoods. He is hearing that City trees are uprooting the sidewalk. How is this handled? Mr. Goodin said the City responds right away by patching the area and then the section is added to the maintenance program. There is a 2-month cycle to do full repairs. Councilman Abrams asked about the liability of sidewalk injuries to a person. How does the City find out about problems. Mr. Goodin said the department depends upon City staff and citizens to call in and report any problem.

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Mr. Goodin mentioned the two wish list items that his department would like to have. One is the resurfacing of the maintenance parking lot and the second is for a canopy over the gas island to protect those who use the self service pumps during bad weather or during the middle of the night. Councilman Hartogensis said Mr. Goodin has made a good case about the need for these.

ENVIRONMENT

Storm Water Management: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Leaf Collection: Mr. Goodin said that a suggestion had been made this year for a change in collection process to not have special crews and equipment pick up leaves but to make it the responsibility of the homeowner to bag their own leaves for pick up during regular trash collection. This suggestion was considered but was seen by staff as more of a problem in that it would increase the refuse fee, make more work for the crews, and staff did not see citizens bagging their leaves. It is easier for citizens to rake the leaves to the curb. He suggested the City stay with the current process.

Right-of-Way Maintenance & Beautification: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Street Sanitation: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Solid Waste Collection & Disposal: Councilman Coyle noted that he has seen a down swing on recycling of paper and metallics. Mr. Goodin said there needs to have a marketing strategy done to get people knowledgeable that this is a money maker for the City. Councilman Abrams asked if any thought had been given to passing out twine and bags again. Mr. Goodin said that there had been a very good response the last time the City did this and staff is looking into starting it up again. Mr. Robinson said the City needs an active public relations program or to have a container on the side of the trash truck to hold papers. This would save the trucks from making a second trip. Councilman Abrams asked if the City could tip other than in Montgomery County. Mr. Goodin said staff has looked into this and it is not feasible. But, if tipping fees increase, staff will look into it again. He mentioned looking into a plant that is located in Pennsylvania. Councilman Abrams said it would be worthwhile to look into other methods.

Sewage Disposal: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Sewage Collection: Councilman Abrams asked how the City is publicizing the extra insurance program. Mr. Goodin said there was an article run shortly after the program was initiated. Councilman Abrams asked if the City is contacting insurance agencies about this and said he would like to have a work session with local agents to get this information out to the public. He suggested also talking with mortgage companies.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Water Treatment: Mr. Goodin said this is the last of his wish list items. He is proposing that the City purchase an Atomic Asporition Unit. It is designed to test for certain chemicals in the City's water supply. This testing will become mandated upon passage of the final version of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1985. He added that this act is expected to be in place by July. The proposed cost of the equipment is \$15,500. Councilman Hartogensis asked what if the law is adopted differently and the City has purchased an expensive piece of

equipment. Mr. Davis, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, said that the Bill is in Committee and is expected to pass. Councilman Hartogensis asked if the City should not wait until the final bill is passed before the equipment is purchased. Mr. Davis noted for the Council that to have this testing done by an outside firm would cost \$10,000 - \$12,000 a year. With the equipment it would cost about \$500 per year. Mr. Robinson said staff time needs to be added into that figure also.

Water Distribution: The Mayor and Council no change.

Water System Construction: The Mayor and Council no change.

Street Lighting: The Mayor and Council no change.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle thanked the Public Works staff for coming out tonight. He noted that their work is greatly appreciated.

(At this time the Mayor and Council took a 10 minute break)

Re: Budget Work Session
with Recreation &
Parks

(At this time, Councilman Duncan left the meeting.)

RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME SERVICES

Municipal Swim Center: Councilman Hartogensis said it was his understanding that the waterslide idea was killed last year. Councilman Abrams said it was just postponed for a year. Councilman Abrams asked how long before the slide will pay for itself. Mr. Baylor said it would depend on how it is funded.

Municipal Golf: Councilman Coyle suggested that the City sponsor a City Challenge and suggested that Rockville challenge the City of Gaithersburg. Mr. Baylor said this could be incorporated into the Rockville Open.

Adult Athletics: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Youth Athletics: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Cultural Arts: It was agreed by the Council that this would be discussed when the Mayor is present.

Recreation Class Programs: It was noted that the fees and credits are down due to the removal of KAT from this program. Mr. Baylor said staff will come back with all fees to show the impact. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked what the split is between adult and youth programs. Ms. Flint said children's programs tend to do better than adults. For instance, adult exercise classes are down due to health clubs opening in the area. Mr. Robinson said the staff needs to look at the projected use. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked if there are any plans for improving Twinbrook Park. Mr. Robinson said the neighborhood is in transition and staff needs to look at that.

(At this time, Councilman Duncan returned to the meeting.)

Courthouse Square Park: The Mayor and Council made no change.

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Community Recreation Programs: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Youth Summer Recreational Activities: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Special Events: Mr. Bayor noted that there was estimated to be 6,100 people in attendance at this year's Rockville Day. Councilman Abrams asked if the obstacle course is opened only on Rockville Day or all year round. Mr. Bayor said the City is conforming to safety regulations. The only part not opened to the public is the rope slide since supervision is needed. Councilman Duncan asked if any thought had been given to using volunteers on Rockville Day. Mr. Bayor said this had been discussed and would like the help. Councilman Duncan suggested getting Board and Commission members, Civic Associations and even the Mayor and Council involved.

Civic Center Park: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Facilities Maintenance: Councilman Coyle asked if there is any volunteer time used in the Parks. Mr. Crehan said the parks use ACSC workers. Mr. Bayor said that the City has used Eagle Scout who do fantastic jobs. He explained that the City supplies the materials and design and the Eagle Scouts provide the labor. Mr. Robinson said the staff is looking at improving the public relations campaign to get other groups involved.

Parks, Playgrounds & Playfields Maintenance: Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked about the garden plots. Mr. Bayor said that the fees were kept the same. The only problem so far is poaching.

Recreational Facilities Design & Construction: The Mayor and Council made no change.

ENVIRONMENT

Storm Water Management: The Mayor and Council made no change.

Right-of-Way Maintenance & Beautification: The Mayor and Council made no change.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Senior Citizens Activities: Councilman Duncan asked how the fee for the Senior Center will be handled. Mr. Bayor said staff is looking into a scholarship approach to help those who cannot afford the fee. Councilman Duncan suggested looking into volunteer hours. Councilman Coyle asked if a significant growth in senior recreation activities is seen. Mrs. Lumpkin said yes and that it is being seen already. Councilman Coyle asked if this would mean more room space would be needed. Mr. Bayor said there has been discussion about doubling up on rooms. Mr. Robinson said staff needs to look at some demographics and look at other types of multi-use recreation centers.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle thanked the Recreation and Parks Department for coming this evening. He said the programs are excellent and to keep up the good work.

Re: Budget Work Session
with Community
Resources

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Rights Activities: Mr. Drayton explained to the Council that this particular activity is dormant until the investigator position is filled. He is currently catching up on the backlog. Councilman Hartogensis asked the time frame involved from receiving a complaint and until a decision is made by the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Drayton said that this depends on the circumstance and explained the steps involved. Councilman Hartogensis asked if the process would be quicker if there was an investigator on board and what kind of backlog is there. Mr. Drayton said there are currently 10 cases now being investigated. Councilman Hartogensis asked what would the investigator do to help the backlog disappear. Mr. Drayton said it would clear up the backlog but new complaints would still be coming in. A full-time person could work all day on the cases and zero in on the complaints. In a year, all ten complaints could be cleared up. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle said at one time a suggestion was made to look into having a conflict resolution. The Council discussed this idea further.

Senior Citizens Activities: Councilman Duncan said he would like the Mayor and Council to receive a memo on Senior Day Care. Mr. Robinson said staff will prepare a policy statement and will follow up and continue to pursue the idea. Councilman Duncan said to spend time and money this year for collecting the information. Looking at the pluses and minuses there is a need for a Senior Day Care Center. There is no need for a policy statement. Mr. Robinson said it was his feeling that the Mayor and Council wanted a statement. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle said he feels the need to have one. Councilman Duncan said there is no need to say that Council is deferring a decision. It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council present that there is no need for a policy statement. Councilman Duncan said asked that other Senior Day Care centers in the area be contacted to see how they operate and get an idea from them on who attends. Councilman Duncan suggested that when the Mayor and Council are closer to a decision, that a fact sheet be prepared and provided to let the citizens know what is happening.

Youth Services: Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked if there are growing numbers in the Hispanic and Korean cultures. Mr. Wallace said there are growing numbers that are constantly moving in and out of the City. Councilman Duncan asked where the youth counselors are spending most of their time. Mr. Wallace explained that there are seven satellite areas that are rent free. He explained that there are people assigned to every neighborhood in Rockville. Some counselors have two neighborhoods some have blocks. It depends on the size. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked how referrals are gotten. Mr. Wallace explained that there are many, many sources.

Special Services: Councilman Duncan said that the community centers are being kept open longer and asked if there is any difference in the hours. Mr. Drayton said staff is maintaining hours and there has been no cutback. Staff is looking to increase its use of outreach workers. Councilman Duncan asked if the outreach people are still in the budget. Mr. Drayton said they are and staff is not looking to increase the number because it causes other problems. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle said he did not see any reference made to shelter assistance or REAP. Councilman Abrams said that these items are in the wish list.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle thanked Mr. Drayton and his staff for coming tonight.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m. to convene again in budget work session on Thursday, May 8, 1986, at 7:30 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.